

REMARKS

Claims 15 and 22 have been amended. Claims 1-14 have been canceled. Claims 15-41 remain in the application.

The drawings were objected to, and Figures 3, 5 and 11 have been amended. In Figures 3 and 6, the lead line for reference number 38 is extended. Similarly, in Figure 11, the lead line for reference number 138, the spacer, is extended. In Figure 5, the lead line for reference number 54, the flange, has been extended. Reference number 24 has been removed. In Figures 3 and 11, the spacer is double hatched, to more clearly show the bolt extending therethrough. Also in Figures 3 and 11, the sides of the port member are angular and the edges of the spacer are rounded. In Figure 5, due to the angle of the section, the line is taken through the head portion of the bolt. The Applicant respectfully submits that the drawings are in a condition for allowance, which allowance is respectfully solicited.

Claims 15-29 were objected to because of various informalities. Claims 15 and 22 were amended to indicate "the" fastener. The Applicant respectfully submits that these claims are in a condition for allowance, which allowance is respectfully solicited.

Claims 7-9 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. The claims have been canceled.

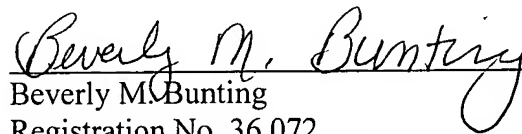
Claims 30-41 were indicated as allowable.

Claims 1-3, 5-6, 10 and 13-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Gasche (US 3,398,978). The Applicant has canceled claim 1, and respectfully submits that this rejection is now moot.

Claims 4 and 11-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Gasche. Claims 4 and 11-12 depend from claim 1, which Applicant has canceled. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that this rejection is now moot.

Based on the above, Applicant submits that the claims are in a condition for allowance, which allowance is respectfully solicited. If the Examiner finds to the contrary, it is respectfully requested that the undersigned in charge of this application be called at the telephone number given below to resolve any remaining issues.

Respectfully submitted,


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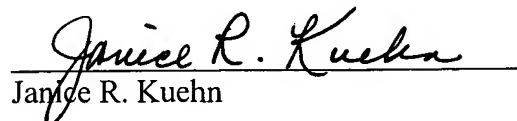
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Janice R. Kuehn